

First Word



March

HOLY COMMUNION DURING LENT AND EASTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Lent & Easter at First UMC
- March Calendar
- Youth News
- Prayer Concerns
- Finances
- Pastor's Corner
- Pancake Breakfast

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SPECIAL SERVICES	2-3
WORSHIP COMMITTEE	4
MARCH CALENDAR	5
YOUTH NEWS	6-7
FINANCES	8
PANCAKE BREAKFAST	9
WATTS	10
LENTEN BIBLE STUDY	11
WORSHIP SCHEDULE	12
DISCOVERY PRESCHOOL	13

I can remember my resistance to Holy Communion as a child. I didn't understand the need to stand in line so long for a piece of bread and some juice. Today, children still shy from communion services for some of the same reasons. Among adults, I hear and sense different kinds of resistance to Holy Communion. Some adults simply do not understand the mystery. Some understand the mystery but lack the faith to make the sacrament important. Some are caught up in the ritual and forget about its purpose. Others do not think they are worthy. And yet, Holy Communion is an "ordinance of God" (order or commandment) that keeps us connected with God. In 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Jesus commands us to "do this in remembrance of me." John Wesley told the 18th century Methodists to take the Lord's Supper as often as possible, and he usually took communion five or six times a week. Holy Communion is always important. It is the whole story of our faith which we can hold in our own hands.

During Lent, we can experience some significant aspects of Holy Communion that may not be as obvious to us throughout the year, even though they are always present. Among other things Holy Communion reminds us of God's forgiveness, Christ's sacrifice and love for us, and His continued presence with us even today. You'll have the opportunity to experience these truths if you join us for worship on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and on Easter for sunrise.

As you experience Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, you will be reminded of forgiveness. Ash Wednesday is about repenting and turning toward God. This is why we receive ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. Confronting our own sin is never easy, but because of Christ we can bring our sins to God with confidence. Holy Communion reminds us, "in the name Jesus Christ you (we) are forgiven!"

As you experience Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, you will be reminded of Christ's sacrifice and His love for us. It is understandable for people to want to shy away from the brutality of the cross. However, it is the crucifixion that makes it completely obvious that Christ loves us enough to endure anything on our behalf.

As you experience Holy Communion at our sunrise service, you will be reminded that Christ is always with us. The sacrament of Holy Communion reminds us that in a spiritual way Christ will be with us until He "comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet." (Service of Word and Table II, p. 14, UMC Hymnal).

There is always a richness to Holy Communion. Because of the services we are offering this year for Lent and Easter, Holy Communion will become significant in ways that you may not have considered lately. I hope you'll join us so that you may fully experience what Christ has to offer through this sacrament.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Will White

LENT AND EASTER 2011 SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS AT FIRST UMC***Ash Wednesday***

The purpose of Ash Wednesday is to give people time, in a worship setting, to turn away from sin and toward God. *Repentance* is the term Christians have historically used to describe this “turning.” Repentance is important because the Holy Bible and the teachings of the Christian churches suggest that one cannot become a Christian unless one repents. The wonderful thing about God is that He accepts our repentance and forgives us. We’ll be reminded of this through Holy Communion.

What: Ash Wednesday Service

Where: The Sanctuary

When: March 9, 7pm

Easter Egg Hunt

This is special for the little ones. All kids are invited to find eggs with treasures inside. The Easter Bunny will appear. The kids will also learn about the resurrection of Jesus. This event is sponsored by the Children’s Ministry Coordinators (Lyda Kiser and Martha Inglis). Please bring donated candy and plastic Easter eggs to the Easter basket in the hallway between the sanctuary and the chapel.

What: Easter Egg Hunt

Where: The Church’s APR Campus (directly across from Apple Pie Ridge Elementary)

When: Saturday, April 16th, 2pm (rain date: April 23 at 2pm)

Palm Sunday

During the Passover feast, Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Coming into town in this way, many saw the link between Jesus and the Old Testament promise that the Messiah would come. The reason we process as Christians is that we do acknowledge Jesus is the promised One. We wave palm branches because many in the crowd showed their love for Christ in this way. Palm Sunday is festive, but bittersweet. We know that Christ will be crucified in the very city that welcomed him.

What: Processional to the Old Town Winchester Courthouse

The acolytes, Children’s Ministry Team, Melinda Russell’s Musical Coalition, Confirmation Class, and the Congregation (those able), will form a parade and march together to the Court House.

Where: Please meet in the parking lot near the playground between the services.

When: Palm Sunday, April 17, 10:10am. Our regularly scheduled services at 8:30 and 11:00am will also address the “Liturgy of the Palms”.

Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae Worship Service

The purpose of Maundy Thursday is to recall how Jesus started the sacrament of Holy Communion. Tenebrae, or the Service of the Shadows, reminds us of Jesus’ betrayal and sacrificial death. These services are important because many people experience the excitement of Palm Sunday and the thrill of Easter without considering the Lord’s sacrifice. Please join us to fully experience Holy Week!

What: Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae Worship Service

Where: The Sanctuary

When: April 21, 7pm

EASTER MORNING FOR FIRST UMC

Easter Sunrise Service

Christians have always gathered at sunrise on Easter Sunday in order to experience the story of Jesus' resurrection similar to the way the women and others experienced the good news on the first Easter. This year, our sunrise service has been planned around the resurrection account found in John 21. The disciples were fishing and saw a man on the shore they did not recognize. Later they came to realize that He was the Lord and that He was cooking a breakfast of fish and bread for them on a campfire. We too will partake of the bread which Jesus has prepared for us as we will celebrate Holy Communion.

What: "Campfire and Communion" (Easter Sunrise)

Where: The Apple Pie Ridge Campus (the property directly across from Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School)

When: Easter Sunday, April 24, 6:30am

Easter Breakfast

Please bring a breakfast casserole to share. Juice, coffee, tea, and eggs are provided.

Where: The Fellowship Hall of First UMC

When: Between the 8:30 and 11:00am Worship Services on April 24th.

Easter Morning Worship

Pastor White's sermon will be, *Good News from the Graveyard*, based on John 20:1-18. Special Music will be provided by the Chancel Choir.

Where: The Sanctuary of First UMC

When: April 24th Easter Sunday, 8:30 and 11:00am

CHURCH VISIONING MEETINGS

Now that the sermon series on the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" has ended, you are invited to continue participating in the visioning process with some small group meetings. Join us for discussion questions, a hymn, and light refreshments. You are invited to attend one of the following meetings:

Thursday, March 3, 6:45-8:15pm (fellowship hall)

Monday, March 7, 6:45-8:15pm (The home of Liz and Ralph Gronlund, 106 Fisher Hill Court, Stephens City)

Saturday, April 12th (place to be determined).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



This year's Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 26th-June 30th. Please mark your calendars! Bring your children and invite your grandchildren. The Children's Coordinators (Martha Inglis and Lyda Kiser) are developing the program and are interested in inviting other groups and persons to become involved. Teachers are also needed. Please contact them if you are interested in helping.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

The Worship Committee would like to invite you to assist with the weekly Sunday worship services. There are no tests or auditions required, just a personal desire to worship and serve God. If you feel called to help, please contact one of the people listed below for that particular activity or let Kristen know at 540-662-3151 and she will relay the information to the appropriate coordinator.

Alter Guild -----	Cheryl Dyksen	540-662-1348
Communion Assistant ----	Corinne Newcome	540-888-3489
Music/Choir Rep		
Scripture Readers -----	Nick & Shannon Fisher	540-327-2042
Worship Leader -----	Susie Brown	540-877-9016
Sound System ----- 8:30	Alan Cavanagh	540-678-9042
11:00	Jack Wilfong	540-662-2348
Ushers -----	Roger McGaffick	540-667-7215
Greeter's -----	Joan Bush	540-662-6469
	Nancy Crim	
Acolytes -----	Mark St. Amand	540-247-3372



J.O.Y.S.

Looking for a way to brighten someone's day? How about coming to a J.O.Y.S. meeting. The J.O.Y.S. group makes shawls to give to individuals who are sick or homebound. The shawls are made with love

and prayed over so they surround the person with love. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 10:30 am in the church parlor. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, March 16th at 10:30 am.

Martha Inglis will be giving a presentation about prayer shawls. If you have any questions contact the church office at 662-3151.

MARCH 2011 CALENDAR

March 1 7:00 pm	PPRC Meeting	March 13 8:30 am	Worship Service	March 25 3:30 pm	“Devo” Coffee
March 2 5:15 pm	“B1” Meeting	9:45 am	Sunday School	March 26 1:30 pm	Golden-Agers Dinner
5:15 pm	3-F Dinner	10:00 am	Confirmation Class	March 27 8:30 am	Worship Service
6:00 pm	Hand Bells	11:00 am	Worship Service	Blood Pressure Clinic after both services and during Sunday School.	
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir	4:00 pm	Sunday Evening Youth	9:45 am	Sunday School
March 3 6:45 pm	5 Practices Reflection Meeting	March 14 6:45 pm	Trustee Meeting	10:00 am	Coffee with the Pastor
March 4 3:30 pm	“Devo” Coffee	7:00 pm	Finance Meeting	11:00 am	Worship Service
March 6 8:30 am	Worship Service	March 16 10:30 am	J.O.Y.S.	4:00 pm	Sunday Evening Youth
9:45 am	Sunday School	5:15 pm	3-F Meal	March 28 7:00 pm	Church Council
10:00 am	Confirmation Class	6:00 pm	Lenten Bible Study	March 30 5:15 pm	3-F Meal
11:00 am	Worship Service	7:00 pm	Hand Bells Chancel Choir	6:00 pm	Lenten Bible Study
4:00 pm	R U Worth Waiting 4	March 18 6:30 pm	“B1” Famine for Youth	6:00 pm	Hand Bells
4:00 pm	Kids for Christ	March 19 6:30 pm	“B1” Famine ends	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
March 8 5:30 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	March 20 8:30 am	Worship Service		
March 9 6:00 pm	No 3-F Meal Lenten Bible Study	9:45 am	Sunday School		
7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	11:00 am	Worship Service No Youth		
March 11 3:30 pm	“Devo” Coffee	4:00 pm	Kids for Christ		
March 12 7:00 am	Pancake Breakfast	March 21 6:45 pm	Worship Meeting		
8:00 am	UMM Meeting	March 23 5:15 pm	3-F Meal		
		6:00 pm	Lenten Bible Study		
		6:00 pm	Hand Bells		
		7:00 pm	Chancel Choir		



MARCH YOUTH NEWS

March 2nd- “B1” Famine planning meeting for parent volunteers. Please meet in the fellowship hall at 5:15 pm. We will have a combined 3-F dinner and meeting.

March 6th- ABBA program for all youth, “RU Worth Waiting 4?”. This is a Christian organization whose mission is “Honoring God, Loving Life and Serving Others. The “Worth Waiting4” program is a tri-level sexual integrity program promoting individual worth, integrity and responsibility for our teenagers. Our youth will have the opportunity to do a two week, level one course during our regular Sunday evening youth time, which is from 4:00-5:30 pm. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions concerning this program, or you may go online and check it out. Info@iamworthwaiting4.org



March 8th- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Youth are helping with. If you are able to assist be at the church by 4:00 pm.

March 13th- Regular Sunday evening youth time from 4:00-5:30 pm.

March 18th-19th- “B1” Famine please meet at the church at 6:00 pm. We will end on Saturday evening at 6:00 pm. The famine is a weekend event that helps youth understand the hunger issues in our world today. Come and help raise awareness and money to help out those in need. Watch for more details and sign up on the youth board.



March 20th- No Sunday evening youth as we will be recovering from our famine weekend!

“We are servants of Christ witnessing to His people through our words and actions as we grow in discipleship.”

MARCH YOUTH NEWS CONTINUED

March 27th- Regular Sunday evening youth time from 4:00-5:30 pm.

Senior High "Devo-Coffee Hour", every Friday afternoon from 3:30-4:30 pm we will meet at the church and walk downtown for a time of devotion and a cup of your favorite beverage. Hope you can make it! It has been a wonderful time of sharing and caring together.



Confirmation Classes are taking place every Sunday during the Sunday school hour until March 13th. Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers!

Need to get in touch with Mary Vorous the Youth Director? Call the office at 662-3151 ext 12. I am always available to answer questions or if a youth needs to talk.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember the following members in your prayers:

Bonnie Keplinger, Rose Patton, Hilda Patton, Velma Ritenour, Edith Anderson, Carole Lineberg, our church and church leaders, Kathy Dunn, Richard Swisher, Madge Fries & Helen Abshire, Susan Horton-Pannell, Faye & George Weidig, Betty Dunn, Bobby Vorous, Brandon Laughrey, Jane Carson, Hazel Fries, Jean Loy, Thelma Rockwell, Betty Sager, Alice Shell, Amy Barnes, Evelyn Warner, Robert Grose, Dick O'Hara, The Torian Family and Courtney Lowe.

Please remember to add the following friends and family in your prayers:

Don Smallwood, Janice Dickerson, Jennifer Carper, Our Military, Alexandra Combs, Fran Ricketts, Barbara Rinker & Family, Andrew Partlow, our servicemen and women, The homeless in our community, Ruth Holmes, Mike Jenkins, Bobby Shives, Spc. Bowe Bergdahl, Ian Eckert and Laura Fost.

SHUT-INS

Hilltop

Mary Everline, Thelma Rockwell
(111 Denny Lane
Winchester, VA 22603)

Spring Arbor

Hazel Fries, Jean Loy
(2093 North Western
Pike Winchester, VA
22603)



God Hears and Answers Prayers

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING.....

I am sure that many of you have wondered what has taken so long for me to report the final financial results for 2010. As a matter of protocol, I first obtain the review and approval of the Finance Committee and the Church Council respectively. Given this process and some delays due to weather, the 2010 financial results are a little later than may have been expected by most.

The year 2010 was an “*improvement*” year for First United Methodist Church finances. In fact, this year was the third consecutive year that the FUMC net income has improved. Unfortunately, FUMC did end the year with a net operating **loss** of \$15,196. This is disappointing to me because as late as October of last year I was convinced that FUMC would at least “break even” for 2010. Our church did a good job in controlling our operating costs. Total operating costs were \$5,802 over budget. This was only due to a few unplanned and unavoidable maintenance expenses. The main reason that FUMC experienced a loss for 2010 was due to a sharp decrease in Sunday offerings for the General Fund. Through September of 2010 average weekly offerings to the General Fund were \$6,631. Average offerings during October through December dropped to \$5,893.

Converse to the church’s operating loss for 2010, income for the Improvement Fund was very favorable and totaled \$31,985. Contributions to this fund averaged \$579 per week through September of 2010. For the final three months of 2010 this average increased to \$722 per week. This generosity has allowed our church to fund several projects for our social hall, our parsonages, and other various needs.

For 2011 I am very hopeful that we will again improve such that we reflect a **gain** in income. However, through the first seven weeks our weekly offerings to the General Fund have averaged \$5,616. And, as in the last few months of 2010, average income for the Improvement Fund is approximately \$773 per week. What this indicates is that again in 2011 we will succeed in funding the various special projects to improve our facilities. However, it appears that the General fund will not be as fortunate. At a weekly rate of \$5,616 we will be facing a potential \$55,000 shortfall.

If anyone has any questions regarding the church’s financial position I hope you will not hesitate to contact me. If you prefer, please do not hesitate to attend the Finance Committee meeting as well. I welcome additional participation.

Larry Dick

Finance Committee Chair

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

When: Saturday, March 12th
Time: 7:00 am to 11:00 am
Where: First United Methodist Church in the Social

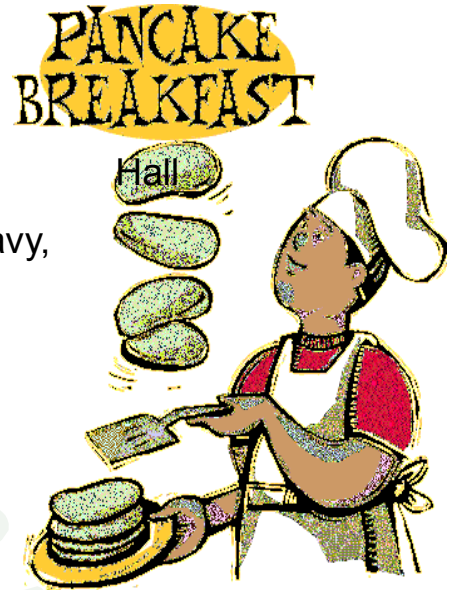
Menu: Pancakes, Gore's Sausage and Sausage Gravy, Scrapple, Scrambled Eggs, Baked Apples, Orange Juice, Ice Tea, Coffee and Milk.

Cookies and cakes will be available to purchase.

Adults~\$6.00

Children under 12~\$4.00

Take out or eat in available.



*Come and
 fellowship with
 members of your
 church family and
 members of the
 community!*

SHICKLE/OMPS SCHOLARSHIP



High School Seniors interested in applying for the Shickle/Omps Scholarship, may pick up the application forms in the church office. Application forms must be returned to the church office by March 31. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

KIDS FOR CHRIST (K-5TH GRADE)

The KFC continues to meet twice a month on Sunday afternoons. We have changed our time from 4:30pm to 4:00pm at the request of some parents who have youth who attend UMYF. Among the parents, it was decided to accelerate our plans for "Children of the World" so that kids may be able to participate before summer breaks and vacations. Please watch the schedule in the bulletin and tune in when you receive calls from Pam Storrs. March KFC meetings will be held on Sunday, March 6 and Sunday, March 20.



WATTS UPDATE

Dear Church Family,

I've had the pleasure to visit with several of our WATTS guests since their stay with us at First Church. I wanted to share some of the great news with you.

Two of the men that had their sleeping bags thrown away by the VDOT contractor were presented with two brand new super duper high-tech sleeping bags thanks to the generous donations of First United Methodist Church.

One of our WATTS guests is thrilled to have landed a good steady job. She now has her own place and is thrilled to have her two young children back with her!

One of our WATTS guests was just accepted into a halfway house program, has been attending AA meetings every day, and has found a new church home. Her comment to me about her new home was, "Jill, they love me there! I'm so excited!" She said she now sees the many doors being opened to her by God.

One guest, after showing his dedication to making positive changes in his life, has been offered a chance to go to a rehab center, and if successful, will have a spot in a local half way house.

The one man who became ill during his stay at our church and was taken to the hospital by ambulance, ended up having to have four stints put in! He is feeling like a new person and is out looking for work. With over 10 years of experience in kitchen management, he is hoping he will hear back soon from the company he just had a second interview with. He is applying all over town.

One guest, who had been so depressed about not finding work, was so excited to tell me that he got a job at Goodwill. He said he now feels like he is going to make it.

Praise God for such wonderful news! Thanks again First Church for opening your doors and your hearts to help others... just when they needed it the most. Please continue praying for all of our new WATTS friends. There are many who are out of work and are desperately looking for jobs.

God Bless,

Jill Johnson

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR (FOR NEWCOMERS)

If you are interested in learning more about the United Methodist Church or membership in First United Methodist Church then you are invited to attend Coffee with the Pastor on Sunday, March 27th at 10:00 am. Danishes, Coffee and Tea will be provided. If you have any

questions contact the church office at 662-3151.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: "BLESSINGS OF THE CROSS"

Rev. White will teach a seven week Bible Study from 6-7 pm in the chapel beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 9th) and continuing on consecutive Wednesday evenings. The class will touch on the lectionary readings for the 2011 Lenten season, so Rev. White will preach on

the same texts on Sunday mornings during Lent. This will be an opportunity to deal with the scriptures in a small group setting. The cost of the class is \$10.00 which covers the Bible study book, "Blessings of the Cross".

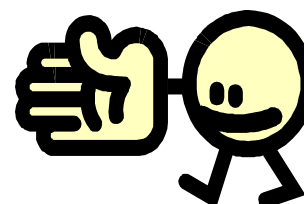


HOW CAN YOU HELP OTHERS?



Do you have something you would like to see our church doing to serve others in our community? Please

contact Jill Johnson at 667-0575.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR LENT AND EASTER

March 6— Last Sunday after Epiphany

Gen. 1:1; Psalm 8:3, 9; Acts 17:28, John 1:18
Title: "Why I Believe in God"

March 9—Ash Wednesday, 7pm, Sanctuary

Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21
Title: "Ash Wednesday Repentance"

March 13—First Sunday in Lent

Matthew 4:1-11
Title: "The Perils of the Wilderness"

March 20—Second Sunday in Lent

John 3:1-17
Title: Nicodemus Encounters Christ

March 27—Third Sunday in Lent

John 4:5-52
Boy Scout Sunday

April 3—Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Title: Are All of Your Sons Here?

April 10—Fifth Sunday in Lent

John 11:1-45
Title: Time to Get Up

April 17—Passion Sunday/ Palm Sunday

Matthew 26:1-16
Title: What a Friend We Have in Judas
Downtown March/ Parade, 10:10am (gather in parking lot)

April 21—Maunday Thursday/ Tenebrae, 7pm, Sanctuary

April 24—Easter Day

--Sunrise 6:30am (APR Campus)
"Campfire and Communion"
--8:30 and 11am (Sanctuary)
John 20:1-18
"Good News from the Graveyard"
--Easter Breakfast (between the services)



THE
RESURRECTION

DISCOVERY PRESCHOOL

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

**IS CURRENTLY REGISTERING FOR
THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR**



We have classes available for two through five-year olds. We offer a program filled with fun and learning in a developmentally appropriate atmosphere.

The children participate in a weekly music program, structured PE class, chapel service, and take field trips. They are taught in a structured learning environment geared towards preparing the children for kindergarten.

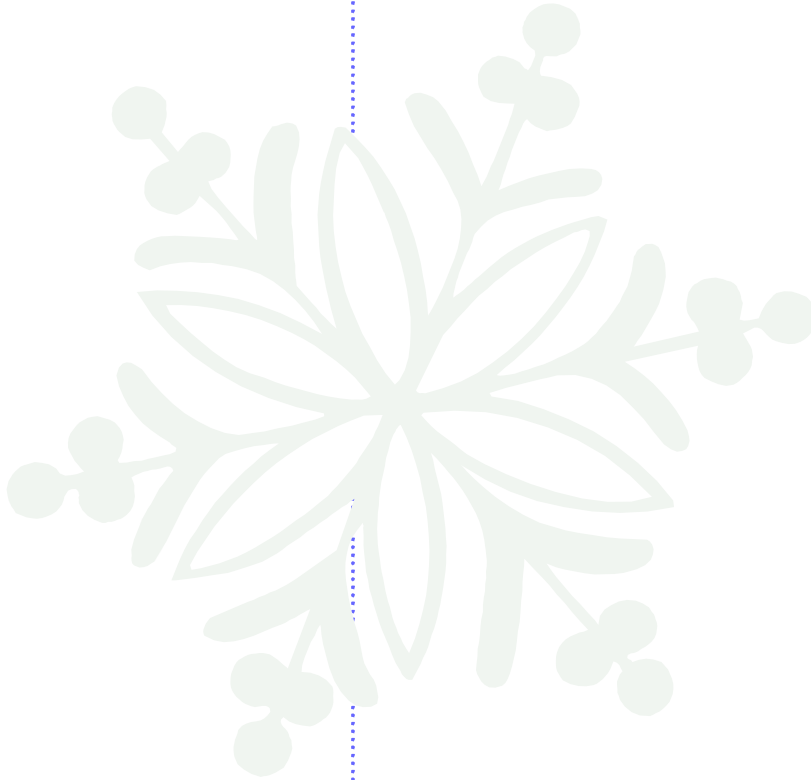
Please call **665-1696** for more information and to set up an appointment to tour our facility.

Debbie MacKnight-Director



*First United
Methodist Church
308 North Braddock Street*

Non-Profit Org
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 136
Winchester, VA



*Winchester, VA 22601
& Apple Pie Ridge
Campus directly across from the
Apple Pie Ridge
Elementary School*

Web site: www.fumcwinchester.org

Church: 540-662-3151
Fax: 540-662-1462

Staff

Rev. William M. White
Pastor

Mary Vorous
Director of Youth
Ministries

Kristen Grzywacz

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER



Mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 8th at 5:30 pm. The United Methodist Men and the Youth will be preparing pancakes and sausage gravy. A freewill

offering will be taken and the proceeds will assist the youth with their summer mission trip. Come and enjoy a yummy dinner and help our youth! Any questions contact Tim Day or the church office.